developed world. The long term objective is to double India's share in global trade by 2020. In order to achieve these objectives, FTP 2009-14 included a mix of policy measures including fiscal incentives, procedural rationalization, enhanced market access across the world and diversification of export markets. The progressive reduction in rate of decline in exports from May, 2009 to September, 2009 significantly indicates that the Stimulus Packages announced by Government and RBI and the measures taken in FTP have started showing their impact.

Kerala CM's concern on FTA with ASEAN

602. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has been signed between India and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN);

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Kerala Chief Minister had met Prime Minister by the end of the last Budget Session and had expressed the concern of the farmers of cash crops over the FTA agreement provisions and the PM has assured the CM that prior discussions will be held before the signing of the agreement; and

(d) if so, why the discussion was not held and what is the Government's response to the concern expressed by the Chief Minister in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India and ASEAN have signed a Trade in Goods Agreement on 13th August, 2009 which is envisaged to come into force with effect from 1st January, 2010. The Agreement mainly consists of exchange of tariff concessions by India and ASEAN Countries during 01.01.2010 and 31.12.2024.

(c) A delegation of political representatives from Kerala headed by Chief Minister of Kerala met the Prime Minister on 3rd August, 2009. The delegation was assured that:

(i) the India-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement completely protects the interests of farmers in Kerala with India insisting on a large Negative List of tariff lines under which no tariff concessions whatsoever would be provided to the ASEAN countries and

(ii) a Group of Ministers (GoM) to expeditiously recommend appropriate measures including structural reforms in vulnerable areas such as tea, coffee, pepper and plantations is being set up.

(d) Domestic consultations were held through various rounds of inter—ministerial meetings and stakeholders dialogues during the India — ASEAN FTA negotiations.